

METRONET Welcomes Tom Shaughnessy as new Executive Director...

On February 9, the METRONET Governing Board selected me as METRONET's Executive Director. It was such an honor to be offered this position, particularly in view of the extraordinary people who have preceded me as Executive Director: Mary Treacy, Janet Fabio, and Susan Baxter. Having retired from the University of Minnesota Libraries in 2002, my knowledge of library issues and challenges is somewhat dated. However, many old colleagues (and some new ones) are working to bring me up to speed. In the weeks ahead I hope to become reacquainted with the many libraries and library staff served by METRONET and work to make METRONET even more effective in fostering collaboration among types of libraries. I look forward to the challenge and the privilege of being of service to you.

-Tom Shaughnessy

...and thanks Susan Baxter for all her hard work!

After over five years with METRONET – including three and a half as Executive Director – Susan Baxter decided to retire on January 21. Some of the highlights from Susan's time with METRONET included the Everybody Wins! program, Twin Cities One Book, the Exemplary Librarians DVD, and of course, the 2002 and 2004 School Library Media Center Program censuses. Susan plans to continue teaching her college courses as well as traveling and reading – lots of reading! Thank you, Susan, and enjoy!

MLA/MEMO Library Legislative Day

Although my appointment as METRONET's Executive Director did not take place until March 1, I could not resist attending Library Legislative Day at the Capitol. It was wonderful to see so many librarians and library supporters interacting with legislators and advocating for library support. It became very



clear that librarians know their representatives and are known by them. It has probably been about 10 years since I lobbied for capital bonding funds to build the University's Elmer L. Andersen Library and underground storage caverns. Since that time, several legislators who supported the appropriation had either retired or lost their bid for re-election. But two of our major supporters were still in office: Senators LeRoy Stumpf and Steve Kelly. It was a real treat to reconnect with them and retell some of the "war stories" from those days. These legislators, I am told, continue to be among the leading advocates for libraries at the Capitol. *(continued on page 2)*

MLA and MEMO did an excellent job with their 2005 legislative platform. It was very readable, persuasive and concise. Each item described in the platform was explained in greater depth by several pages of “talking points” designed to assist library advocates in their meetings with legislators.

Among the other documents distributed at the beginning of the day was a description of the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) along with actual testimonies from library users on the importance and value of the ELM databases. It is interesting that of the 112 stories included in the document, more than 70 percent are from K-12 schools. Reading these stories can provide a real morale boost.



Need a job? Have a job to fill? Looking for an event to attend?

The Minnesota Library Calendar and Minnesota Library Jobline, formerly hosted at www.mnlibs.org, are now hosted at the METRONET website. Please remember to submit your job listings and upcoming events!

Resource Sharing Among Minnesota Libraries: Inter-Library Delivery Services, Structure, Costs, and Current/Future Funding

This report was issued in October 2004 by the Minnesota Department of Administration. It is an extremely important document in that it describes in considerable detail the value of resource sharing among libraries of all types and the continuing need for paper document delivery systems. Most of the state’s delivery mechanisms are funded at least in part by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants, but these funds will not be available for this purpose beginning in FY2006. Consequently, funding to offset these delivery grants and/or other operational adjustments will be necessary. It is interesting to note that while the use of electronic resources such as those provided via the ELM databases continues to increase, so does the demand for access to printed documents and other media. Electronic availability has not diminished – at least thus far – the need among users for other formats.

Within the metropolitan region, library users are served by at least three delivery systems operated respectively by MELSA, MINITEX and CLIC. However, the report notes that many school library/media centers “have comparatively little access to outside materials via interlibrary loan and delivery services” (p. 79). This is a matter that obviously deserves attention, particularly if MEMO’s Recommended Standards for Information and Technology Literacy are implemented.

2004 School Library Media Program Census

Last October, METRONET issued the results of its census of library/media center programs. The report confirmed what many of us had long suspected, for example, that staffing with library media specialists has a positive impact on student reading scores, that library collections are significantly out-of-date in several subject areas, and that on average Minnesota is spending on learning resources about half of the amount spent on school athletics.

Current law in Minnesota does not require schools to have a licensed library media specialist. Consequently, in the face of tight budgets, many school districts have employed untrained staff to manage and provide library and media services. Equally troubling is the finding that in fields such as science and geography, the average copyright date for the book collections surveyed is 1989. If this is the *average* date when library books were written, then clearly some books are not only outdated but are providing incorrect information.

Copies of the census can be found on the METRONET web page. A limited number of copies of the report's executive summary, [Check It Out!](#), may be obtained from the METRONET office.

Disaster Planning workshops



On November 9 approximately 60 people attended the first “Disaster Planning” workshop at Ridgedale Library in Minnetonka. Bob Herskovitz, Outreach Conservator for the Minnesota Historical Society, discussed the process of creating a disaster plan, explained the team building process needed for emergency situations, and began leading participants through the process of creating disaster plans for their own organizations.

On February 16 and March 9, attendees came together again for part two of the planning process, which included Bob’s explanation of the actual steps involved in handling a disaster situation, including team member responsibilities, assessment of the situation, the building, and the collection, and the actual collection recovery process. Participants even had the opportunity to handle various types of materials that had been submerged in water in order to get a feel for the actual experience. As Bob noted, actually handling wet materials is very different than just talking about it!



Follow-up to part two will be discussed by the planning committee in late-March or April.

This workshop series was developed through the cooperative efforts of several organizations including: Capitol Area Libraries Cooperating (CALCO); Cooperating Libraries In Consortium (CLIC); Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA); Metronet; and MINITEX Library Information Network.

What happened to the Minnesota Library Directory (mnlibs.org)?

For those of you who may have been looking for the Minnesota Library Directory (formerly at www.mnlibs.org), please be assured that the directory is not gone forever, but will reappear sometime soon on the State of Minnesota website. Programming is underway, and we'll help publicize the new directory's location as soon as it makes its debut. In the meantime, visit the MN Web Directory on the METRONET site to find links to many Minnesota libraries.

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